

Disabled Vehicles

506.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for office members who provide assistance to motorists in disabled vehicles within the primary jurisdiction of the Talbot County Sheriff's Office.

506.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Talbot County Sheriff's Office to assist motorists with disabled vehicles until those vehicles are safely removed from the roadway. Members should take appropriate action to mitigate potential problems when a vehicle constitutes a traffic hazard or the safety of the motorist is a concern.

506.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

When an on-duty member of this office sees a disabled vehicle on the roadway, the member should make a reasonable effort to provide assistance. If this is not reasonably possible, the dispatcher should be advised of the location of the disabled vehicle and the need for assistance. The dispatcher should then assign another office member to respond as soon as practicable.

506.4 ASSISTANCE

In most cases, a disabled motorist will require assistance. After arrangements for assistance are made, continued involvement by office members will be contingent on the time of day, the location, the availability of office resources and the vulnerability of the disabled motorist.

506.4.1 MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Office members shall not make mechanical repairs to a disabled vehicle. The use of push bumpers, with consent of the owner, to relocate vehicles to a position of safety is not considered a mechanical repair.

506.4.2 RELOCATION OF DISABLED VEHICLES

The relocation of disabled vehicles by members of this office by pushing or pulling a vehicle should only occur when the conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to reduce a hazard presented by the disabled vehicle.

506.4.3 RELOCATION OF DISABLED MOTORIST

The relocation of a disabled motorist should only occur with the person's consent and should be suggested when conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to mitigate a potential hazard. The office member may stay with the disabled motorist or transport him/her to a safe area to await pickup.